

Grade 6

Assessment of Reading, Writing and Mathematics, Junior Division

Student Booklet Language 1

SPRING 2012

**RELEASED SELECTIONS AND
ASSESSMENT QUESTIONS**

Record your answers on the Multiple-Choice
Answer Sheet.

Education Quality and
Accountability Office



Please note: The format of
this booklet is different from
that used for the assessment.
The questions themselves
remain the same.

Language 1

Section A

Johnny Miles's Marathon Memories

A Cape Breton runner still recalls the greatest race of his life.



The oldest living winner of the famous Boston Marathon—Nova Scotia's celebrated Johnny Miles—still remembered details of his incredible victory 75 years afterward. When I reached him by phone at his retirement home in Hamilton, Ontario, the former runner had just turned 95. During that call in the fall of 2000, the marathon champ shared with me some faded memories of that celebrated race in 1926. He remembered the footwear that carried him to his victory.

"A pair of sneakers," he said. "They were very light."

How much did they cost?

"98 cents," he said.

Imagine that! I chuckled at the price.

Floyd Williston, author of *Johnny Miles: Nova Scotia's Marathon King*, told me Miles started running as a boy. The author explained how the young Miles trained while driving the horse-drawn delivery wagon for the local grocery store.

"His father made the reins extra long," said Floyd. "Miles would get out of the wagon with the long reins and run behind the horse," he said. "He was often seen like that on the streets of Sydney Mines."

Young Miles had never run a 42.2-kilometre marathon until that April in 1926, when he showed up at the starting line in Boston. The 20-year-old was going up against his running hero—Albin Stenroos of Finland, the Olympic marathon champion.

The race began. The crowd of runners surged through the Boston streets. Johnny Miles followed his father's advice to hang back behind the lead runner, Stenroos, and stay alongside the number-two runner in the pack, a runner named Demar. But when he saw that Demar was not about to make a move forward, Miles decided to act alone.

Miles increased his pace, pulling up alongside Stenroos.

"He ran with him for a minute or so," said Floyd, "and then Johnny noticed that Stenroos was tiring. At Heartbreak Hill he passed Stenroos and never looked back!"

Johnny Miles beat the Olympic champion to the finish line by four minutes! This Nova Scotia runner had set a Boston Marathon record.

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- 1** This text is best described as
- a a summary of a Boston Marathon.
 - b a biography about Floyd Williston.
 - c an account of Johnny Miles’s childhood.
 - d an article about a famous Canadian runner.
- 2** Why did Johnny go to Boston in April 1926?
- a to watch a race
 - b to buy new sneakers
 - c to run his first marathon
 - d to meet his running hero
- 3** In paragraph 9, why did Johnny Miles decide to “act alone”?
- a He wanted to race by himself.
 - b He wanted to gain the lead position.
 - c He wanted to follow his father’s advice.
 - d He wanted to set a new marathon record.
- 4** In paragraph 9, the word “surged” indicates that the runners
- a ran up a steep hill.
 - b moved forward quickly.
 - c fell behind the lead runner.
 - d staggered toward the finish line.

5 Explain why Johnny Miles is a good choice for an interview. Use details from the text and your own ideas to support your answer.

6 How do the quotes from Floyd Williston help the reader understand Johnny Miles’s experiences as a runner? Use specific details from the text to support your answer.

Carousel



We have been here before
 I cannot remember when
 But the paint is still red
 Perhaps not as shiny as
 (When we were here) 5
 Before

No popcorn is on the ground
 Birds have stolen it all away
 But I don't know why
 I even noticed it missing 10
 Anyway

A forgotten sign faded and decrepit
 Leans against a rusty pole
 "Pony ride—50 cen—"
 A victim of many angry storms 15
 Perhaps

The grass is still dead and flat
 Where the bandstand once stood
 Yet the banners have all fallen down
 Over the fancy frozen ponies that dance as 20
 (When we were here)
 Before

- 7** What does the speaker notice about the banners?
- a They are torn.
 - b They are faded.
 - c They are covering the ponies.
 - d They are blowing in the wind.
- 8** How does the speaker know that there was once a bandstand?
- a It has been the victim of angry storms.
 - b The banners around it have fallen down.
 - c It has caused a sign to lean against a pole.
 - d The lawn where it was has been destroyed.
- 9** The word “frozen” tells the reader that the ponies are
- a still.
 - b cold.
 - c solid.
 - d strong.
- 10** Why does the speaker repeat lines 5–6 at the end of the poem?
- a to create a timeline
 - b to describe the setting
 - c to show the speaker is not alone
 - d to emphasize the role of memory

11 Explain why the changes noticed by the speaker have occurred. Use specific examples from the poem and your own ideas to support your answer.

12 How do the changes to the carousel and surrounding area make the speaker feel? Use specific details from the poem to support your answer.

- 13** Write a report to read to your class explaining in detail how closing a local park may affect people in your community.

Ideas for My Report

Write your answer on the next page.

Write your report here. Remember to check your spelling, grammar and punctuation.



Language 1

Section B

Moon Trees

In different parts of the world, there are trees that were grown from seeds that had travelled to space and back. 1



It all started in 1971 with the *Apollo 14* mission to the moon. The three NASA astronauts for the mission were Edgar Mitchell, Alan Shepard and Stuart Roosa. 2

Roosa had been a smoke jumper—a firefighter who parachutes directly into wildfires—before becoming an astronaut. So scientists from NASA and the U.S. Forest Service asked him to take tree seeds into space. Roosa took a small metal container with over 400 tree seeds in it. Scientists from both agencies wanted to study the seeds to see if they would grow normally when they were brought back to earth. 3

Since many things behave differently in space, scientists were interested to find out if exposure to low gravity would alter the seeds or affect their ability to grow. Roosa took several different kinds of tree seeds: redwood, pine, sycamore, Douglas fir and sweetgum. 4

After the *Apollo 14* module went into orbit around the moon, Shepard and Mitchell went down to the surface. Roosa stayed in orbit with the tree seeds and went around the moon 34 times. 5

When the seeds were brought back to earth, scientists planted them to see if they would grow. Almost every seed sprouted and grew into a sapling. Later, the young saplings were given as gifts to different people around the world. The young trees were planted in various places where the climate was appropriate for the type of tree. 6

Most of the trees have plaques stating that they are Moon Trees. Aside from the plaques, there is no way to distinguish Moon Trees from trees that never went to space. Over time, NASA lost track of where most of the trees ended up, because there is no central record of where they were planted. However, all known locations of Moon Trees can be found on a Web site maintained by Dave Williams, a Canadian scientist who works for NASA. 7

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- 1** Why does Roosa take different kinds of seeds into space?
- a to plant them on the moon
 - b to see how they react in space
 - c to scatter them in the atmosphere
 - d to try to grow them in low gravity
- 2** What does the word “orbit” mean as used in paragraph 5?
- a a flight path
 - b a gravity field
 - c the atmosphere
 - d the space module
- 3** Why is the information in paragraph 6 provided after paragraphs 2–5?
- a to show the generosity of the astronauts
 - b to describe the results of the experiment
 - c to explain how the seeds became saplings
 - d to explain why trees need different climates
- 4** What did the experiment demonstrate?
- a Seeds sprout easily in low gravity.
 - b Smoke jumpers can become astronauts.
 - c Being in outer space had little effect on the seeds.
 - d Seeds need to be planted in an appropriate environment.

5 Why does Dave Williams continue to track the Moon Trees? Use information from the text and your own ideas to support your answer.

6 Explain why receiving a Moon Tree would be considered a gift. Use information from the text and your own ideas to support your answer.



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